

Western Asset High Yield Defined Opportunity Fund Inc.  
Form DEF 14A  
August 29, 2017

**SCHEDULE 14A**

**(Rule 14a-101)**

**INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT**

**SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION**

**Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the**

**Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

**(Amendment No. )**

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

**Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e) (2))**

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to Section 240.14a-11(c) or Section 240.14a-12

**WESTERN ASSET HIGH YIELD DEFINED OPPORTUNITY FUND INC.**

**(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)**

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

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WESTERN ASSET HIGH YIELD DEFINED OPPORTUNITY FUND INC.

(NYSE: HYI)

**620 Eighth Avenue, 49th Floor, New York, New York 10018**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

August 29, 2017

*To the Stockholders:*

The Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Western Asset High Yield Defined Opportunity Fund Inc. (the Fund ) will be held at 620 Eighth Avenue (at 41st Street), 49th Floor, New York, New York, on Friday, September 29, 2017 at 10:30 a.m., New York time, for the following purposes:

1. A proposal to elect three Class III Directors to the Fund s Board of Directors (Proposal No. 1); and
2. The transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournments or postponements thereof.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on July 25, 2017 as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Robert I. Frenkel

Secretary

August 29, 2017

**IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOUR SHARES BE REPRESENTED AT THE MEETING IN PERSON OR BY PROXY; IF YOU DO NOT EXPECT TO ATTEND THE MEETING, PLEASE COMPLETE, DATE, SIGN AND RETURN THE PROXY CARD (which will be made available to you separately) OR PROVIDE VOTING INSTRUCTIONS BY TELEPHONE OR VIA THE INTERNET.**

**Instructions for Signing Proxy Cards**

The following general rules for signing proxy cards may be of assistance to you and avoid the time and expense to the Fund in validating your vote if you fail to sign your proxy card properly.

1. *Individual Accounts:* Sign your name exactly as it appears in the registration on the proxy card.
2. *Joint Accounts:* Either party may sign, but the name of the party signing should conform exactly to a name shown in the registration.
3. *All Other Accounts:* The capacity of the individual signing the proxy card should be indicated unless it is reflected in the form of registration. For example:

<b>Registration</b>	<b>Valid Signature</b>
<b>Corporate Accounts</b>	
(1) ABC Corp.	ABC Corp. (by John Doe, Treasurer)
(2) ABC Corp.	John Doe, Treasurer
(3) ABC Corp., c/o John Doe, Treasurer	John Doe
(4) ABC Corp. Profit Sharing Plan	John Doe, Trustee
<b>Trust Accounts</b>	
(1) ABC Trust	Jane B. Doe, Trustee
(2) Jane B. Doe, Trustee, u/t/d 12/28/78	Jane B. Doe
<b>Custodial or Estate Accounts</b>	
(1) John B. Smith, Cust., f/b/o John B. Smith, Jr. UGMA	John B. Smith
(2) John B. Smith	John B. Smith, Jr., Executor

**Instructions for Telephone/Internet Voting**

Various brokerage firms may offer the convenience of providing you with voting instructions via telephone or the Internet for shares held through such firms. Instructions for Internet and telephonic voting are included with the proxy card or voting instruction form.

WESTERN ASSET HIGH YIELD DEFINED OPPORTUNITY FUND INC.

(NYSE: HYI)

**620 Eighth Avenue, 49th Floor, New York, New York 10018**

## PROXY STATEMENT

This proxy statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation by the Board of Directors (the **Board**) of Western Asset High Yield Defined Opportunity Fund Inc. (the **Fund**) of proxies to be voted at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Fund to be held at 620 Eighth Avenue (at 41st Street), 49th Floor, New York, New York, on Friday, September 29, 2017 at 10:30 a.m., New York time, and at any adjournments or postponements thereof (the **Meeting**), for the purposes set forth in the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the **Notice**).

This Proxy Statement and the accompanying materials are being made available to stockholders on or about August 29, 2017.

The Fund is organized as a Maryland corporation and is a registered investment company.

Legg Mason Partners Fund Advisor, LLC ( **LMPFA** ), whose principal business address is 620 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 10018, is the Fund's investment adviser and administrator. Pursuant to respective sub-advisory agreements with Western Asset Management Company ( **Western Asset** ), Western Asset Management Company Limited in London ( **Western Asset Limited** ), Western Asset Management Company Ltd. in Japan ( **Western Japan** ) and Western Asset Management Company Pte. Ltd. in Singapore ( **Western Singapore** ), each serves as the Fund's sub-investment advisors. Western Asset has offices at 385 East Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena, California 91101 and 620 Eighth Avenue, New York, New York 10018. Western Asset Limited has offices at 10 Exchange Square, Primrose Street, London EC2A 2EN. Western Japan has offices at 36F Shin-Marunouchi Building, 5-1 Marunouchi 1-Chome Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-6536, Japan. Western Singapore has offices at 1 George Street #23-01, Singapore 049145. LMPFA, Western Asset, Western Asset Limited, Western Japan and Western Singapore are all wholly-owned subsidiaries of Legg Mason, Inc. ( **Legg Mason** ).

Even if you plan to attend the Meeting, please sign, date and return a proxy card, or provide voting instructions by telephone or over the Internet. If you vote by telephone or over the Internet, you will be asked to enter a unique code that has been assigned to you and which is printed on your proxy card. This code is designed to confirm your identity, provide access into the voting sites and confirm that your instructions are properly recorded. If you require additional information, please call toll free at 1-866-875-8614.

All properly executed proxies received prior to the Meeting will be voted at the Meeting in accordance with the instructions marked thereon or otherwise as provided therein. Unless instructions to the contrary are marked, shares represented by the proxies will be voted **FOR** the election of each nominee in Proposal 1. Stockholders who execute proxies may revoke them at any time before they are voted by filing with the Fund a written notice of revocation, by delivering a duly executed proxy bearing a later date or by attending the Meeting and voting in person. In accordance with the Fund's By-Laws, a quorum is constituted by the presence in person or by proxy of the holders of record of a majority of the outstanding shares of the Fund's common



stock entitled to vote at the Meeting. For purposes of determining the presence of a quorum for transacting business at the Meeting, abstentions will be treated as shares that are present but which have not been voted.

The Board has fixed the close of business on July 25, 2017 as the record date (the Record Date ) for the determination of stockholders of the Fund entitled to notice of and to vote at the Meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof. Stockholders of the Fund on that date will be entitled to one vote on each matter for each share held, and a fractional vote with respect to fractional shares, with no cumulative voting rights. At the Record Date, the Fund had outstanding 22,783,369 shares of Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share, the only authorized class of stock.

**Annual reports are sent to stockholders of record of the Fund following the Fund's fiscal year end. The Fund will furnish, without charge, a copy of its annual report and most recent semi-annual report succeeding the annual report, if any, to a stockholder upon request. Such requests should be directed to the Fund at 620 Eighth Avenue, 49th Floor, New York, New York 10018 or by calling toll free at 888-777-0102. Copies of annual and semi-annual reports of the Fund are also available on the Fund's website at [lmcef.com](http://lmcef.com) or on the EDGAR Database on the Securities and Exchange Commission's Internet site at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).**

Please note that only one annual or semi-annual report or Proxy Statement may be delivered to two or more stockholders of the Fund who share an address, unless the Fund has received instructions to the contrary. To request a separate copy of an annual or semi-annual report or the Proxy Statement, or for instructions as to how to request a separate copy of these documents or as to how to request a single copy if multiple copies of these documents are received, stockholders should contact the Fund at the address and phone number set forth above.

#### **Vote Required and Manner of Voting Proxies**

A quorum of stockholders is required to take action at the Meeting. A majority of the shares of the Fund entitled to vote at the Meeting, represented in person or by proxy, will constitute a quorum of stockholders at the Meeting.

Votes cast by proxy or in person at the Meeting will be tabulated by the inspector of election appointed for the Meeting. The inspector of election, who is an employee of the proxy solicitor engaged by the Fund, will determine whether or not a quorum is present at the Meeting. The inspector of election will treat abstentions and broker non-votes (i.e., shares held by brokers or nominees, typically in street name, as to which proxies have been returned but (a) instructions have not been received from the beneficial owners or persons entitled to vote and (b) the broker or nominee does not have discretionary voting power on a particular matter) as present for purposes of determining a quorum.

If you hold shares directly (not through a broker-dealer, bank or other financial intermediary) and if you return a signed proxy card that does not specify how you wish to vote on a proposal, your shares will be voted FOR Proposal 1.

Broker-dealer firms holding shares of the Fund in street name for the benefit of their customers and clients will request the instructions of such customers and clients on how to vote their shares on each Proposal before the Meeting. A signed proxy card or other authorization by a beneficial owner of Fund shares that does not specify how the beneficial owner's shares should be voted on a proposal will be deemed an instruction to vote such shares in favor of Proposal 1.



If you hold shares of the Fund through a service agent that has entered into a service agreement with the Fund, the service agent may be the record holder of your shares. At the Meeting, a service agent will vote shares for which it receives instructions from its customers in accordance with those instructions. A signed proxy card or other authorization by a stockholder that does not specify how the stockholder's shares should be voted on a proposal may be deemed to authorize a service agent to vote such shares in favor of Proposal 1. Depending on its policies, applicable law or contractual or other restrictions, a service agent may be permitted to vote shares with respect to which it has not received specific voting instructions from its customers. In those cases, the service agent may, but may not be required to, vote such shares in the same proportion as those shares for which the service agent has received voting instructions. This practice is commonly referred to as "echo voting."

If you beneficially own shares that are held in "street name" through a broker-dealer or that are held of record by a service agent and if you do not give specific voting instructions for your shares, they may not be voted at all or, as described above, they may be voted in a manner that you may not intend. Therefore, you are strongly encouraged to give your broker-dealer or service agent specific instructions as to how you want your shares to be voted.

### **Required Vote**

Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast by the holders of shares of the Fund's Common Stock present in person or represented by proxy at a Meeting at which a quorum is present.

For purposes of the election of Directors, abstentions and broker non-votes will not be considered votes cast, and do not affect the plurality vote required for the election of Directors.

If the necessary quorum to transact business or the vote required to approve Proposal 1 is not obtained at the Meeting, the chairman of the Meeting or the persons named as proxies may propose one or more adjournments or postponements of the Meeting in accordance with applicable law to permit further solicitation of proxies. If in the judgment of the chairman of the Meeting, it is advisable to defer action on the Proposal, the chairman of the Meeting may propose one or more adjournments of the Meeting with respect to the Proposal for a reasonable period or periods. The Meeting may be adjourned up to 120 days after the original record date for the Meeting without further notice other than announcement at the Meeting.

### **Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Meeting to be Held on September 29, 2017**

**The proxy statement and related materials are available at [www.proxy-direct.com/lmf-29027](http://www.proxy-direct.com/lmf-29027).**

### **Proposal No. 1:**

#### **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

In accordance with the Fund's Charter, the Board is currently classified into three classes: Class I, Class II and Class III. The Directors serving in Class III have terms expiring at the Meeting, and they have been nominated by the Board of Directors for election at the Meeting to serve for a term of three years (until the 2020 Annual Meeting of Stockholders), or until their successors have been duly elected and qualified or until they resign or are otherwise removed. The terms of office of the remaining Class I and Class II Directors expire at the year 2018 and 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, respectively, or thereafter until their successors have been duly elected and qualified or until they resign or are otherwise removed. The effect of these staggered terms is to limit the ability of other entities or persons to acquire control of the Fund by delaying the replacement of a majority of the Board of Directors.



The persons named in the proxy intend to vote at the Meeting (unless directed not to vote) FOR the election of the nominees named below. Each of the nominees is currently a member of the Fund's Board of Directors and has indicated that he or she will serve if elected. However, if any nominee should be unable to serve, the proxy will be voted for any other person determined by the persons named in the proxy in their discretion.

Certain information concerning the nominees for Directors of the Fund and other Directors of the Fund is set forth in the following table.

### Persons Nominated for Election as Directors

Name, Address and Birth Year	Position(s) Held with Fund	Term of Office and Length Time Served	Principal Occupations During Past Five Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex** Overseen by Director	Other Directorships Held by Director
<b>Nominees to serve as Class III Directors until 2020 Annual Meeting of Stockholders</b>					
<b>NON-INTERESTED DIRECTOR NOMINEES</b>					
Robert D. Agdern c/o Chairman of the Fund Legg Mason & Co., LLC ( Legg Mason & Co. ) 620 Eighth Avenue, 49th Floor New York, NY 10018 Year of birth: 1950	Director and Member of Nominating, Audit, Compensation and Pricing and Valuation Committees	Since 2015	Member of the Advisory Committee of the Dispute Resolution Research Center at the Kellogg Graduate School of Business, Northwestern University since 2002; Deputy General Counsel responsible for western hemisphere matters for BP PLC from 1999 to 2001; Associate General Counsel at Amoco Corporation responsible for corporate, chemical, and refining and marketing matters and special assignments from 1993 to 1998 (Amoco merged with British Petroleum in 1998	27	None

forming BP PLC).

\*\* The term "Fund Complex" means two or more registered investment companies that:

- (a) Hold themselves out to investors as related companies for purposes of investment and investor services; or
- (b) Have a common investment adviser or have an investment adviser that is an affiliated person of the investment adviser of any of the other registered investment companies.

<b>Name, Address and Birth Year</b>	<b>Position(s) Held with Fund</b>	<b>Term of Office and Length Time Served</b>	<b>Principal Occupations During Past Five Years</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex** Overseen by Director</b>	<b>Other Directorships Held by Director</b>
Eileen A. Kamerick c/o Chairman of the Fund Legg Mason & Co. 620 Eighth Avenue, 49th Floor New York, NY 10018 Birth year: 1958	Director and Member of Audit, Nominating, Compensation and Pricing and Valuation Committees	Since 2013	National Association of Corporate Directors Board Leadership Fellow and financial expert; Adjunct Professor, Washington University in St. Louis and University of Iowa law schools (since 2007); formerly, Senior Advisor to the Chief Executive Officer and Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of ConnectWise, Inc. (software and services company) (2015 to 2016); Chief Financial Officer, Press Ganey Associates (health care informatics company) (2012 to 2014); Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer, Houlihan Lokey (international investment bank) and President, Houlihan Lokey Foundation (2010 to 2012)	27	Hochschild Mining plc (precious metals company) (since 2016); Director of Associated Banc-Corp (financial services company) (since 2007); Westell Technologies, Inc. (technology company) (2003 to 2016)
Dr. Riordan Roett c/o Chairman of the Fund Legg Mason & Co.	Director and Member of Audit,	Since 2010	The Sarita and Don Johnston Professor of Political Science	27	None

620 Eighth Avenue, 49th  
Floor  
New York, NY 10018  
Birth year: 1938

Nominating,  
Compensation  
and Pricing  
and Valuation  
Committees

and Director of  
Western  
Hemisphere  
Studies, Paul H.  
Nitze School of  
Advanced  
International  
Studies, The Johns  
Hopkins University  
(since 1973)

\*\* The term **Fund Complex** means two or more registered investment companies that:

- (a) Hold themselves out to investors as related companies for purposes of investment and investor services; or
- (b) Have a common investment adviser or have an investment adviser that is an affiliated person of the investment adviser of any of the other registered investment companies.

Name, Address and Birth Year	Position(s) Held with Fund	Term of Office and Length Time Served	Principal Occupations During Past Five Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex** Overseen by Director	Other Directorships Held by Director
<b>The following table provides information concerning the remaining Directors of the Fund. Class II Directors serving until the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders</b>					
<b>NON-INTERESTED DIRECTORS</b>					
Leslie H. Gelb c/o Chairman of the Fund Legg Mason & Co.  620 Eighth Avenue, 49th Floor New York, NY 10018 Birth year: 1937	Director and Member of Audit, Nominating, Compensation and Pricing and Valuation Committees	Since 2010	Consultant and Lecturer; President Emeritus (since 2003); formerly, Senior Board Fellow (2003 to 2015) and President, (prior to 2003), the Council on Foreign Relations; formerly, Columnist, Deputy Editorial Page Editor and Editor, Op-Ed Page, The New York Times	27	Director of two registered investment companies advised by Aberdeen Asset Management Asia Limited (since 1994); Director, Encyclopedia Britannica; Director, Centre Partners IV and V, LP and Affiliates
William R. Hutchinson c/o Chairman of the Fund Legg Mason & Co. 620 Eighth Avenue, 49th Floor New York, NY 10018 Birth year: 1942	Director and Member of Audit, Nominating, Compensation and Pricing and Valuation Committees	Since 2010	President, W.R. Hutchinson & Associates Inc. (consulting)	27	Director (Non-Executive Chairman of the Board (since December 1, 2009)), Associated Banc-Corp. (since 1994)
<b>INTERESTED DIRECTOR</b>					
Jane E. Trust, CFA					
c/o Chairman of the Fund					
Legg Mason&n					